# 5 A Day By Popular Demand

# A Tool For Food Service Workers

### Introduction

As food service directors, you well know many of the obstacles and opportunities you face in providing nutritious and delicious meals. The theme for this year's National 5 A Day Week is "Fruits and Vegetables by Popular Demand." This theme highlights the essential role you play in creating and meeting the demand for increasing fruit and vegetable consumption.

Fruits and vegetables play a key role in all our lives. Research indicates that eating 5 or more fruits and vegetables each day helps lower the risk of heart disease, stroke, and several cancers. Unfortunately, too many of us fail to eat the recommended amounts. When people are asked why they fall short of these goals, they often say that fruits and vegetables are not very accessible ---- it is easier to reach for foods that are high in fat and low in nutritional content. Several research studies have demonstrated that if fruits and vegetables are made more visible, appealing and accessible ---- especially in school food service ---- more people will eat them.

This guide is intended to provide you with tips, suggestions and strategies you can use to increase the availability of fruits and vegetables in your facility.



### HOW THIS TOOL WAS DEVELOPED

As part of their work with the 5 A Day Program, researchers at the University of Minnesota conducted a series of focus groups with food service staff. What they found may be similar to your experiences. Most said that they do what they can to make the food look appealing and taste good and to make the lunchroom a pleasant place. They also said that they were limited by district menus and policies, limited budgets, USDA serving rules, the need to use commodity foods which are cheap but not as appealing as other food, and limited time to do everything.

While this tool cannot help overcome many of these obstacles, it draws upon the findings of this research and the experience of many food service operators who have succeeded in increasing the fruit and vegetable consumption in their facility.

### This tool includes:

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### **How 5 A Day Can Fit into A Government Meal Pattern**

Research conducted by the National Cancer Institute has shown that food service staff play an essential role in ensuring that children receive the recommended number of fruit and vegetable servings they need each day. The National School Breakfast Program, the National School Lunch Program, The Summer Food Service Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program each present opportunities to incorporate fruits and vegetables into the diets of millions of young people throughout this country.

The following table outlines some simple strategies to increase the availability of fruits and vegetables in your cafeteria while at the same time, meeting the USDA guidelines.

Food Group	Number of Servings per Meal	Suggested Foods and Amounts
Meat/Meat Alternatives	1 serving	1 cup cooked dry navy beans or peas (red beans, navy beans, black-eyed peas, split peas, lentils, etc.)
Vegetables/Fruits	2-3 servings	*6 fluid oz 100% juice or 1 medium piece of fruit or ½ cup fruit or 1/4 cup dried fruit or ½ cup cooked or raw vegetables or 1 cup salad greens

Source: Nickals TA, Johnson CC, Matzinger AB, Farris RP, White M, Cunningham A. Gimme 5: A Fresh Nutrition Concept for Students. New Orleans: Tulane University Medical Center.1995.



### **Menu Planning Guidelines**

Use these guidelines to increase the frequency, variety, and portion size of fruits and vegetables on the menu.

Increase in the Menu (Lower in fat, saturated fat and/or sodium)	Decrease in the Menu (Higher in fat, saturated fat and/or sodium)				
Fresh, frozen, canned or dried fruit					
New varieties of fruit					
Fresh, frozen or canned juice	eges				
Fresh, frozen or unsalted canned vegetables and salad	<ul> <li>C Salted canned vegetables and soups</li> <li>C Buttered, creamed or fried vegetables</li> <li>C Number of times French fries are served in a week</li> </ul>				
New varieties of vegetables	NA				
Fruits and vegetables in mixed dishes, desserts, and baked products					
Entree-type salad (i.e. chicken, seafood)					
Fruits and vegetables as a garnish or sauce	0 2 00 (R				
Fruit smoothies					
Vegetable soups and stews					
Salad bar or prepared salads					
Fruit juices in addition to milk					
Fruit-based desserts	AUAI				
Portion sizes of fruit and vegetable recipes	for bottor boolth				
Cooked dried beans and peas served alone or in recipes	<ul> <li>C Beans and soups prepared with salt pork or ham</li> <li>C Beans marinated in heavy oils</li> <li>C Canned beans</li> </ul>				

Source: Nickals TA, Johnson CC, Matzinger AB, Farris RP, White M, Cunningham A. Gimme 5: A Fresh Nutrition Concept for Students. New Orleans: Tulane University Medical Center

### **GUIDELINES FOR CHOOSING GOVERNMENT COMMODITIES**

Food commodities from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are an important part of a school meal program. Certainly, receiving USDA commodities helps to balance any school nutrition budget. You can use more commodity fruits and vegetables, which will help to increase frequency, variety, and serving size on the menu without increasing cost. There are some commodities that are lower in fat or sodium than others. When these are used it is also easier to prepare fruit and vegetable recipes that are lower in fat and sodium and meet the 5-A-Day criteria.

Use these guidelines in choosing your commodity foods:

- 1. Order more fresh, frozen, canned, or dried fruit.
- 2. Increase the use of commodity vegetables and substitute fresh or frozen vegetables for canned vegetables where possible.
- 3. Request less butter.
- 4. Request more part-skim mozzarella cheese, and less American cheese. Mix them to lower the fat content of fruit and vegetable dishes.
- 5. Increase the use of commodity fruits and vegetables in mixed dishes and baked products.

Fruits and Vegetables Available t	hrough the Commodity Program
Potatoes, instant Potatoes, round Potatoes, French fries Sweet potatoes, canned Tomato paste, canned* Tomato, whole, canned Beans, green, canned, drained Beans, green frozen* Corn, whole-kernel, canned drained Mixed vegetables (carrots, corn, and green peas), frozen* Peas, green, canned, drained*	Apples, fresh* Applesauce, sweetened, canned* Apricots, canned, light syrup* Blueberries, frozen* Cherries (sweetened), red, tart, pitted, frozen* Figs, dried* Lemon juice, reconstituted* Mixed fruit (peaches, pears, grapes), canned, light syrup* Peaches, canned, light syrup* Pears, canned, light syrup* Pineapple, canned, light syrup* Plums, canned, light syrup*
	Prunes, dried, pitted* Raisins*

\* Great vegetables and fruits to include more often in your breakfast and lunch recipes.

Source: Nickals TA, Johnson CC, Matzinger AB, Farris RP, White M, Cunningham A. Gimme 5: A Fresh Nutrition Concept for Students. New Orleans: Tulane University Medical Center



### GUIDELINES FOR PURCHASING VENDOR-PREPARED FOODS

Prepared foods purchased from a vendor often are used in school lunches, party because they save time and effort. Vendor products can be used as a base for an entree item, with fruit or vegetables added to it to help meet the 5 A Day goal.

For example, you could purchase a cheese pizza and add vegetables to it as toppings. Or you could serve vendor waffles with a fruit topping added. Careful purchasing of these foods leads to menu items that contain more fruit or vegetables as ingredients and are lower in fat and sodium. There can be large differences in nutrient content between vendors, so be aware and read labels.

The following guidelines will help you select vendor-prepared foods that will increase the use of fruits and vegetables, and that meet the 5-A-Day criteria for fat, saturated fat, cholesterol, and sodium.

- 1. Let your vendor know you are interested in products with more fruit or vegetable ingredients. (Example: buy vegetarian pizzas or add vegetables to a lower fat cheese pizza).
- 2. Ask your vendor to give you information on the fat and sodium in the products supplied to you, or send a letter requesting the information. Make sure the vendor knows that you use fat and sodium criteria as guidelines in selecting products.
- 3. Invite your local food distributors to submit food samples that can be evaluated by your taste-testing committee.
- 4. Keep a list of vendor products and their nutrient content; this will be helpful in planning menus.

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### **Food Preparation Methods**

The methods you use to prepare foods can help ensure that your ability to increase the availability of fruits and vegetables while reducing the amount of fat, saturated fat, cholesterol, and sodium in school lunch and breakfast foods.

These techniques are particularly useful when preparing meat-based or mixed dishes that include fruit or vegetable ingredients. Additional tips for preparing and cooking vegetables so that they retain their appearance, taste, texture, and nutrients are listed below.

### **Preparing Vegetables for Cooking**

### 1. FRESH VEGETABLES

- T Wash thoroughly before cooking
- T Trim, pare, or cut into uniform pieces
- To minimize loss of nutrients; pieces should be cut as large as possible to reduce exposed cooking area

### 2. FROZEN VEGETABLES

- T Loosely packed frozen vegetables, such as whole kernel corn, can be cooked without thawing.
- T Solid pack frozen vegetables, such as spinach, should be thawed long enough to break apart easily before cooking.

#### 3. CANNED VEGETABLES

- T Drain off liquid before heating
- T Heat only to serving temperature
- T Never add salt
- T Prepare in small batches

### **General Guidelines for Cooking Vegetables**

- 1. Steam vegetables when possible for the best flavor, texture, color, nutritive value.
  - T Place vegetables in shallow even layers
  - T Use perforated pans for best steam circulation
  - T Use solid pans if cooking liquid must be saved
- 2. Avoid over-cooking
- 3. Cook until crisp-tender
- 4. Undercook slightly if the product must be held before serving.
- 5. Use batch cooking.
- 6. Leave strong-flavored vegetables uncovered when cooking.
- 7. Small amounts of acids (i.e. lemon juice, cream of tartar) added to cooking water will keep white vegetables from discoloring.
- 8. Remember the enemies of green vegetables: acids and long cooking times.
- 9. NEVER add baking soda when cooking vegetables

 $Source: Nickals\ TA,\ Johnson\ CC,\ Matzinger\ AB,\ Farris\ RP,\ White\ M,\ Cunningham\ A.\ Gimme\ 5:\ A\ Fresh\ Nutrition\ Concept\ for\ Students.\ New\ Orleans:\ Tulane\ University\ Medical\ Center$ 



# MORE QUICK STRATEGIES TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR MORE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES



## <u>USE THESE GUIDELINES TO INCREASE FRUITS OR VEGETABLES AS</u> INGREDIENTS;

- 1. Add vegetables as ingredients to soups or stews.
- 2. Replace part of the ground meat in chili, tacos, etc. with cooked beans.
- 3. Replace some of the liquid in dessert recipes with fruit juice.
- 4. Add fruit or vegetables to entree salads such as tuna or chicken salad.
- 5. Increase fruit as ingredients in breads and desserts where possible.
- 6. Try "vegetarian" recipes for pizza, lasagna, etc.
- 7. Use fruits or vegetables to garnish an entree.

## <u>USE THESE GUIDELINES TO REDUCE FAT IN RECIPES CONTAINING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:</u>

- 1. Use skim, low-fat or nonfat dry milk in place of whole milk in recipes.
- 2. Reduce the amount of mayonnaise, sour cream, or oil or substitute nonfat or low-fat plain yogurt in salad dressings and other recipes.
- 3. Use lower fat or part-skim cheeses such as part-skim mozzarella in recipes and on the salad bar. Reduce the amount of regular cheese or mix part-skim with regular cheese.
- 4. Gradually reduce the amount of butter or shortening or use margarine instead of recipes.
- 5. Substitute powered sugar for whipped topping or icing on desserts, when appropriate.
- 6. Use lower fat gravy in recipes.
- 7. Either do not spread melted butter or margarine on breads or whip butter before spreading.
- 8. Do not add margarine, butter or sauces to vegetables. Try flavoring vegetables with lemon juice, herbs, or spices.
- 9. Use egg whites instead of whole eggs in recipes, when appropriate.
- 10. Substitute applesauce, grape juice, or nonfat yogurt for part of the fat in some baked recipes.

# <u>USE THESE GUIDELINES TO REDUCE SODIUM IN RECIPES CONTAINING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:</u>

- 1. Reduce salt in recipes by half or eliminate.
- 2. Season food with garlic, onion powder or other seasonings without salt.
- 3. Reduce the following seasonings in recipes: pork (ham, bacon, salted or pickled), garlic salt, onion salt, catsup, bouillon, mixed seasoning, MSG, and Worcestershire sauce.
- 4. Do not add salt to the water used to cook vegetables, rice or pasta.
- 5. Use more fresh or frozen vegetables, or drain canned vegetables used as ingredients.

### BY POPULAR DEMAND! FOOD SERVICE RECIPES

Try some of these nutritious and delicious recipes in your cafeteria! Most have been created by NCI-funded researchers and tested in schools in Louisiana and Minnesota. We have revised several and re-formatted them to make it easier to adjust the serving sizes you may need.

RECIPE						PA	<b>\G</b> l	Ε	
Krazy Kabobs	~	0				/.	•		10
Tasty Tacos		√ ′	0		./				11
Yes-Ay! Chicken with Pineapple Salsa		. \	Ù.	Ŋ.	1	-		12	2-13
You Asked for It! Lasagna	۱.,		/				.7		14
Power to the People Pepper Steak	$\geq$	•	١.\			./			15
Mobilized Vegetables						<			16
Scream for More! Squash and Tomato Casserole									17



### **KRAZY KABOBS**

INGREDIENTS	25 SERVINGS		FOR	DIRECTIONS
	WEIGHT	MEASURE	SERVINGS	
Beef roast  Mushrooms, fresh	5 1/4 lbs	25 each		<ol> <li>Trim fat from beef roast and cook until done. Cut beef into small squares. 4-5 squares will equal a 2 oz. Serving.</li> <li>Cut onions and peppers into woodges.</li> </ol>
Cherry tomatoes Onions	3 lbs	25 each	vege	wedges. 3. Assemble meat and vegetables on skewers. Begin with mushroom and end with tomato.
Green peppers	3 lbs			4. Combine oil and Kitchen Bouquet and brush on each skewer. Optional: Sprinkle with parsley flakes or oregano.
Oil		2 Tbsp	.33	5. Bake shishkabobs at 350 for 8- 10 minutes. Cover and hold in
Kitchen Bouquet	100	2 Tbsp	4	warmer.
Wooden skewers		25		Note: 3 1/4 lbs precooked roast or chicken breast can be substituted.
			A	(Source: Gimme 5: Fresh Choice Recipes)
Nutrients per servir	<u>ng:</u> Sodium: 49	O	lesterol: 49 12%	Number of fruit and vegetable servings: 1



### **TASTY TACOS**

INGREDIENTS	50 SER	50 SERVINGS		DIRECTIONS
	WEIGHT	MEASURE	SERVINGS	
Ground beef	10 lbs		٨	1. Cook ground beef. Drain and rinse to defat.
Kidney beans		1 #10 can	1	2. Add onions, tomatoes, green
Chopped onions		3 cups		pepper, salt, cumin, chili powder, and garlic powder to
Diced tomatoes,	1 7	1 #10 can	Vega	beef.
drained	1.25	0	-061	3. Drain kidney beans. Puree or add whole to meat mixture.
Chopped green		1 cup	-	4. Serve in taco shells
onions		1		5. Serve with shredded cheese,
Salt	//	1 Tbsp	PXI	shredded lettuce and diced
Chili powder	15	2 cups		tomatoes.
Cumin		5 Tbsp		Note: To substitute dry beans, cook 2 ½ lbs dry beans and drain.
Garlic powder		3 Tbsp	.13	Yield: 12 cups. Substitute soft
Mozzarella cheese	1 ½ lbs			tortillas to reduce fat and sodium content further.
American cheese	1 ½ lbs			
Diced tomatoes, fresh		12 ½ C	, ,	(Source: Gimme 5: Fresh Choice Recipes)
Shredded lettuce		12 ½ C	AI	Number of fruit and vegetable servings: 2
Taco shells		100 count	) for b	etter health

WEIGHT MEASURE SERVINGS	
WEIGHT   MEASURE   SERVINGS	
	Cook ground beef. Drain and
SERVING SIZE: 2 tacos  Nutrients per serving: Calories: 313 Sodium: 815 mg Cholesterol: 66 mg Fat (%Kcals):39% Saturated fat (%Kcals): 18%  3.  No coordinates of the	rinse to defat. Add onions, tomatoes, green pepper, salt, cumin, chili powder, and garlic powder to beef.  Drain kidney beans. Puree or add whole to meat mixture.  Serve in taco shells  Serve with shredded cheese, shredded lettuce and diced tomatoes.  ote: To substitute dry beans, ok 2 ½ lbs dry beans and drain. eld: 12 cups. Substitute soft rtillas to reduce fat and sodium ntent further.  ource: Gimme 5: Fresh Choice ecipes)  umber of fruit and vegetable rvings: 2

### YES-AY! CHICKEN WITH PINEAPPLE SALSA

INGREDIENTS	25 SER	VINGS	FOR	DIRECTIONS
	WEIGHT	MEASURE	SERVING S	
Chicken pieces, skinned Green onions, chopped		for 25 servings 1/2 cup	Vo	<ol> <li>Skin chicken pieces</li> <li>Prepare marinade by combining all ingredients, except chicken and lime.</li> <li>Pour marinade over chicken,</li> </ol>
Red wine vinegar  Hot pepper sauce	11115	1 Tbsp 1 tsp	vege	turning pieces to coat both sides. Cover and refrigerate overnight.  4. Bake chicken at 350 for 25
Soy sauce	1	1 Tbsp	SY	minutes. 5. Garnish with lime slices.
Jalapeño pepper, chopped		1 each	M	Serve with pineapple salsa.
Jerk seasoning: Allspice Nutmeg Cinnamon Black pepper Lime, sliced		1/2 Tbsp 1/8 tsp 1/2 tsp 1/4 tsp 1 each		(Source: Gimme 5: Fresh Choice Recipes)  Number of fruit and vegetable servings: 0 (1 serving when served with pineapple salsa)
SERVING SIZE: 1 Nutrients per servir Calories: 144 65 mg Fat (%Kcals): 30 %	<u>ng:</u> Sodium: 12	etter health		

### PINEAPPLE SALSA

INGREDIENTS	25 SER	VINGS	FOR	DIRECTIONS
	WEIGHT	MEASURE	SERVINGS	
Pineapple chucks		1 1/2 #10 cans	^	1. Drain pineapple and reserve juice
Red or green bell pepper		3 each		<ul><li>2. Clean and dice bell pepper and onion.</li><li>3. Seed and dice jalapeño peppers.</li></ul>
Red onion	1	3 each	Vege	4. Combine all ingredients and refrigerate.
Lime juice		2 cups		Recipe makes one gallon.
Jalapeño peppers		12 each		(Source: Gimme 5: Fresh Choice
Jerk seasoning: Allspice	1	1/2 Tbsp		Recipes)
Nutmeg Cinnamon		1/8 tsp 1/2 tsp		Number of fruit and vegetable servings: 1
Black pepper Pineapple juice		1/4 tsp 1 cup		GQ B
SER	VING SIZI	E: 1/2 cup		2
Nutrients per serving: Calories: 144 Sodium: 360 mg Cholesterol: 0 mg Fat (%Kcals):3% Saturated fat (%Kcals): < 1%			DAY	

### YOU ASKED FOR IT LASAGNA

INGREDIENTS	50 SER	VINGS	FOR	DIRECTIONS
	WEIGHT	MEASURE	SERVINGS	
Ground beef Kidney beans	10 lbs	1 #10 cans		<ol> <li>Cook ground beef. Drain and rinse to defat.</li> <li>Drain beans. Puree beans, or add whole to meat.</li> <li>Mix taco sauce according to</li> </ol>
Tomato sauce	1.00	1 #10 can	Vege	package directions. 4. Spray 4" pan with non-stick
Flour tortillas		20 count	573	vegetable spray.  5. In each pan, make two layers
American cheese	1 lb	516	PY	consisting of tortillas, meat mixture, and taco sauce. 6. Top with shredded cheeses.
Mozzarella cheese Chopped tomatoes	1 lb	12 1/2 cups	13	<ul> <li>7. Bake at 350 for 15 minutes.</li> <li>8. Before each pan is served, top with shredded lettuce and diced tomatoes. Cut pan 8 x 4.</li> </ul>
Shredded lettuce Taco sauce	98	12 1/2 cups 1 pkg	STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE P	(Source: Gimme 5: Fresh Choice Recipes)
SERVING SIZE: 1 piece				Number of fruit and vegetable servings: 1
Nutrients per serving: Calories: 342 Sodium: 1110 mg Cholesterol: 60 mg Fat (%Kcals): 31% Saturated fat (%Kcals): 14%				etter health

### POWER TO THE PEOPLE PEPPER STEAK

INGREDIENTS	50 SER	VINGS	FOR	DIRECTIONS
	WEIGHT	MEASURE	SERVINGS	
Beef roast (cut into 1 x 2 1/2 inch strips) Sliced onions Sliced mushrooms Ginger, dried Minced garlic	12 lbs 4 lbs 2 lbs	1 Tbsp 3 Tbsp	vege	<ol> <li>Cook beef in steamer or kettle.</li> <li>Add onions, ginger, thyme, and garlic to beef.</li> <li>Cook 20 minutes, or until tender.</li> <li>Mix tomato paste, soy sauce, cornstarch, and water. Add to beef.</li> <li>Add bell peppers and mushrooms. Cook 20 minutes</li> </ol>
Soy sauce Thyme Slice bell peppers Tomato paste Cornstarch	4 lbs	1/2 cup 2 Tbsp  1/3 cup 1/2 cup		more. 6. Cook rice. Serve 2/3 cup pepper steak over 1/2 cup cooked rice.  (Source: Gimme 5: Fresh Choice Recipes)
Water Rice	2 lbs, 13 oz	1 Tbsp		Number of fruit and vegetable servings: 1
Nutrients per serving Calories: 403 mg Fat (%Kcals): 36%	<u>ng:</u> Sodium: 24	DAY etter health		

### **MOBILIZED VEGETABLES**

INGREDIENTS	25 SERVINGS		FOR	DIRECTIONS
	WEIGHT	MEASURE	SERVINGS	
Broccoli florets	6 lbs		1	<ol> <li>Mix vegetables and steam for 5 minutes.</li> <li>Make oriental sauce by heating</li> </ol>
Carrot slices or sticks	5 lbs	-nd	Vec	beef broth, soy sauce, and ginger to boiling. Make a paste of cornstarch and water,
Green onions	1,15	2 bunches	5867	and stir into broth mixture with a wire whip. Cook until thickened.
Sliced mushrooms	5 lbs	643		3. Pour sauce over the vegetables.
Bean sprouts	3	1 #10 can		Note: California blend or other frozen vegetables may be used, but a perforated pan should be used for steaming. Oriented sauce may be amitted and 1/2 cun margarine.
Water chestnuts		1 #10 can	19 C	omitted and 1/2 cup margarine substituted per pan. Sodium will decrease.
Oriental sauce: Beef broth Cornstarch,		2 cups 4 Tbsp		(Source: Gimme 5: Fresh Choice Recipes)
canned Soy sauce Ground ginger		8 Tbsp 1 tsp	A	Number of fruit and vegetable servings: 1
SERV	VING SIZI	etter neartn		
Nutrients per servin Calories: 260 S mg Fat (%Kcals):23% S	Sodium: 492			



### SCREAM FOR MORE! SQUASH & TOMATO CASSEROLE

INGREDIENTS	100 SERVINGS		FOR	DIRECTIONS
	WEIGHT	MEASURE	SERVINGS	
Zucchini squash, 1inch cubes Onions, yellow,	17 lbs 1 lb, 4 oz	7	1	<ol> <li>Spray large skillet with non-stick coating.</li> <li>Saute zucchini, onions, green</li> </ol>
coarsely chopped	115, 102			peppers, and garlic in skillet until tender.
Green peppers, seeded coarsely chopped	1 lb, 4 oz	and	vege	<ul><li>3. Add tomatoes, eggs, tabasco, thyme, parsley and pepper. Mix thoroughly and heat through.</li><li>4. Divide vegetables evenly into 2 full-</li></ul>
Garlic, fresh, minced		12 cloves		size 4" steam pans.
Tomatoes, fresh, diced		2 quarts	3	cheese, and melted margarine. Sprinkle this topping evenly over
Eggs, medium, fresh	1	6		each pan. 6. Bake uncovered in a preheated oven:
Tabasco sauce		2 Tbsp	M	Conventional oven: 350 for 20-25 minutes
Thyme leaves, crushed		1 tsp	. 13	Convection oven: 300 for 15-20 minutes. 7. Portion with #8 scoop.
Parsley, dried		3 cups		
Black pepper		2 Tbsp		(Source: Gimme 5: Fresh Choice Recipes)
Plain dry bread crumbs	8 oz			Number of fruit and vegetable servings:
Parmesan cheese, grated	4 oz		AI	DAY
Margarine, melted		2 oz	for b	etter health
SE	RVING SIZ			
Nutrients per serving: Calories: 42 Sod Fat (%Kcals): 29% Sat	lium: 55 mg urated fat (%			